



## DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

### News Release

**LINDA LINGLE**  
GOVERNOR

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### **Three Beach Parks Close Due to Increased Shark Sightings Along Kona Coast**

**KONA, HAWAII** — Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), the Hawaii Fire Department Ocean Safety Division and the Hawaii County Department of Parks and Recreation closed Waialea Bay State Park, Hapuna Beach State Recreation Area (SRA), and Spencer County Beach Park, September 8, due to the sighting of large sharks ranging in size from 6 – 15 feet. There are confirmed reports of 15 large sharks from Waialea Bay to Kawaihae Small Boat Harbor area.

“The closures of these three areas are precautionary measures to ensure the safety of the public,” says Laura H. Thielen, DLNR Chairperson.

Due to the increased sightings of sharks along the Kona Coast the three beach parks will remain closed for the rest of the day until an assessment tomorrow morning in which officials will determine to either open the beaches or issue orders to keep the beaches closed.

On September 5<sup>th</sup>, the area of Waialea Bay and Hapuna Beach SRA were closed and remained closed throughout the weekend due to a shark sighting in these areas. The species of the 15 sharks sighted along the coast today is still unknown.

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